

Viking Saga

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

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More than just a family

EMELIA RICHLING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For Dramse siblings Konner, Courtney and Katelynn, the foundation of their lives have been rocked by moving through different homes, but through it all, the hope they will be together one day inspired them until their recent adoption several weeks ago.

CONTINUED ON PG. 6-7

Photo courtesy of the Dramse family
Dana, Courtney, Katelynn, Konner and Michelle Dramse stand together with the judge after finalizing their adoption on March 29.



History of Pride

LGBTQIA+ activists pushed for their rights for years, giving the community a rich history.



PAGE 4

FBLA Goes National

After two years of SLC being virtual, FBLA members finally went to state, then nationals.



PAGE 4

Terrific Trap

Trapshooting athletes explain why trap is such a beloved sport.



PAGE 10

Golden Opportunity

Sophomore Ella Lorenz won a national gold key for her sculpture in the Scholastics competition.



PAGE 11

VIKING SAGA

Northwest High School
2710 N. North Rd.
Grand Island, NE 68803
308.385.6394
www.ginorthwest.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Emelia Richling

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Emma Smith

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jaiya Braden

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Jordan Jenik

EVENT COORDINATOR

Audrianna Wiseman

CONTENT ORGANIZERS

Melisa Kikic

REPORTERS

Hiapatia McIntosh

Casey Payne

Meghan Pennell

ADVISER

Kirsten Gilliland

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The “Don’t Say Gay” Bill: Making students existing controversial

MEGHAN PENNELL
STAFF WRITER



On March 28, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed CS/CS/HB 1557 or the “Pa-

rental Rights in Education Bill” into law prohibiting discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity at certain grade levels. What DeSantis fails to realize is a bill isn’t going to prevent children from being gay, but instead leave children who happen to be gay with psychological damage that lasts a lifetime.

According to the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, lesbian, gay and bisexual students were 140% more likely to not to go school because of safety concerns compared to heterosexual students. The same survey stated that nearly one third of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth have attempted suicide at least once in the prior year compared to the 6% of heterosexual youth. Thirty-four percent were bullied on school property, and 10% were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

By signing this bill DeSantis is setting a hostile example for all Florida students, gay and straight alike. During a press conference ahead of signing the bill, DeSantis said teaching kids that “they can be

whatever they want to be” was “inappropriate” for children in Florida and for children everywhere. Throughout the conference, DeSantis argues gender is inherently biological, but if that were true, why would he find it necessary to censor any book or piece of media claiming otherwise?

It is understandable for parents to be concerned about their children’s safety and the quality of their education, but parents of LGBTQIA+ students have been facing the same worry for decades. Not to mention the countless teachers and staff this bill will alienate when most schools are already struggling to fill positions. Are educators going to be encouraged to blatantly lie to their students about their lives under this bill?

The answer remains unknown, as the bill features vague and undescriptive wording. Specific details of sex education and anti-inclusion curriculums are not included, showing that this bill’s signing is being motivated by hatred and not concern for America’s youth. The description of limitations featured in the bill is so general they will most likely be interpreted differently by every team of administrators reading it, meaning the effects of this bill will ultimately be unknown to everyone, except the students suffering at the hands of DeSantis and his fear-mongering followers.

The creators of this bill

act like schools are indoctrinating children to be gay or transgender under some “unholy” agenda to “convert” everybody, when in all reality most LGBT+ students are scared to even show up to class most days. If the concern was really the quality of education of our children, why not ban all discussions of sex and romance entirely? If we aren’t saying “gay”, why can we say “straight?”

Whether parents like it or not, some children will be gay, and some will be straight. Gender and sexuality is an undeniable part of life and the more resources students have available to put into words what they are feeling, the more ready they’ll be for anything, or any person, that life throws at them. What are children in Florida, or any state supporting legislature like this, going to do when they leave and meet someone different from them? Diversity is what makes education beautiful, and that fact will not change under one bill.



HIAPATIA MCINTOSH
STAFF WRITER



The definition of gender is a subcategory within a grammatical class of a language that is partly arbitrary (based on random choice or personal whim).

Gender is also partly based on distinguishable characteristics (such as shape, social rank, manner of existence or sex).

Being transgender is not a choice or something that can be avoided. It is a psychological chemical difference. Humans only get one life to live, and everyone is only trying to live life to the fullest, which includes being happy, healthy and comfortable in their skin.

When babies are born, doctors declare said child male or female, depending on physical traits that are shown. Whichever sex the child is assigned dictates the gender the baby is assigned, girl or boy.

However, in some cases, the brain doesn't agree with the gender assigned. Males and females have a specific brain structure. There's different hormones in each brain. When the hormones don't line up, it can cause gender dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is when a person's assigned gender doesn't align with their gender identity. This causes feelings of discomfort while complying to the common expectations and gender roles of their assigned gender.

Some other symptoms of gender dysphoria include a want to have an al-

ternate physical appearance, pronouns that comply to the person's gender identity and denial of any idioms related to the gender opposing to the preferred gender.

According to the Williams Research Institute, over 1.4 million adults identify as transgender just in America. In Nebraska, 0.28% of the adult population is reportedly transgender, which translates to over 5,400 people.

When a female begins the transition into a man, they may start taking a steroid called testosterone.

Testosterone comes in the form of an injection and will cause a deeper voice, an increase in muscle mass and body hair, and an absence of menstrual periods.

Another solution may also include purchasing a chest binder.

In order to transition from male to female, there are a number of surgeries

to change the physical appearance and body anatomy. While there isn't a medicine to take to change the hormones in your body, there are physical anatomy surgeries, along with laser hair removal.

Transitioning from male to female is not as accessible but it is definitely worth the ef-

fort.

Do not feel ashamed or guilty for wishing to feel comfortable. Changing one's physical appearance doesn't negatively affect anyone. Being transgender does not equal being a bad human. Your mind will thank you.

Your mind will thank you.

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Pride month is approaching, going from Jun 1 to the 30. In honor of this occasion, here's some information about LGBT+ history

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transender, queer/questioning, intersex and asexual community, also known as LGBTQIA+, has not had the easiest past. Throughout history, there have been documented cases of violence and hate towards the community.

LGBT+ people have been around for hundreds to thousands of years with documented reports (according to Chinadaily, a site that focuses on Chinese history) of male homosexual relationships coming from major countries, such as China, Japan, Egypt and Greece. Homophobia and other such hatred for the community originally came from western civilization (according to findchina a site that focuses on lesser-known Chinese stories) and was brought over to the eastern countries, influencing countries that were once accept-

Pride and prejudice: LGBTQIA+

ing. It is not uncommon to see countries which were once accepting of LGBT+ people now hate the community. Even so, for many of these countries, they are turning over a new leaf and becoming, slowly but surely, more accepting.

In the United States, LGBT+ people have always been a contrivsoral subject. During the global outbreak of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) that swept the nation in the '80s, homosexuals were told it was punishment for being in a dirty relationship and were often denied treatment. When the '90s hit and people started to believe there was safety in coming out to family and friends, the Mathew Shepherd case (the brutal assault, torture and death of a 21-year-old in Colorado) happened, terrifying people back into the closet.

But, there have been upsides as well. The Stonewall riots (a series of riots that took place at the New York City Stonewall Inn in the '60s) were major in pushing for recognition of the community and making their voices heard. These days, the inn is an important historical landmark for the LGBT+ community. In 2015,

the Supreme Court passed a law legalizing marriage between same-sex couples in all 50 states.

Through it all, the community has stayed strong in their identity with famous activists, such as Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who made a safe home for transgender youth; Audre Lorde, who made an organization to help female survivors of sexual abuse; and Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, who works to push LGBT+ writings by women of color. These four dedicated their lives to pushing LGBT+ acceptance and pride so the younger generation can feel safe in the community.

Currently, 30 countries allow same-sex marriage (according to Pewresearch a statistics based news source), and even fewer have laws protecting transgender people. Still, the LGBT+ community is worldwide and fighting for an accepting future where they can, one day, live without judgment.

FBLA: From state to nationals

MELISA KIKIC
CONTENT MANAGER

After two years of being virtual due to COVID-19, the State Leadership Conference (SLC) for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) was held in person. Four of six FBLA students participating qualified for nationals.

Participants included seniors Isaiah Balcom, Sydney Fisher, Emily Krupicka, Emeilia Richling and Kristan Rinkol and junior Ava Buckner. Fisher qualified for nationals in Electronic Career Portfolio. Krupicka qualified in Impromptu Speaking, Job Interview and Social Media Strategy. Krupicka also qualified for nationals in Business Plan, together with Richling and Rinkol. Richling received an honorable mention in Business Communication.

"It's beneficial for them because it's a leadership conference where they are dressing professionally for all their competitions and interacting with many different students as well as advisors and judges and other adults," said FBLA advisor Lori Cooper. "It's

a good way to do some networking as well as meet new students across Nebraska that have similar interests in what they are doing, show some leadership skills and be responsible."

The event took place in Kearney Apr 11-13. At the Younes Conference Center, a brand-new facility, 1,759 members from 131 chapters across Nebraska competed in a variety of business activities. Some events were based on performance, such as public speaking, while others included taking tests.

"The event that I will be competing in at nationals is impromptu speaking where you get a topic 10 minutes before, and you have 10 minutes to prepare the speech and memorize it," Krupicka said. "Prior to attending SLC, I, as well as some of the other FBLA members, met with our advisor to look over tests and prepare for events. Some of mine involved writing, and others were more 'you do it as you go.'"

For Fisher, this was her second year participating in SLC.

"I was able to look deep into my future

career outlook, use skills that I've obtained throughout different classes and utilize information that I've received from my education class with Mrs. Cooper into my presentation," Fisher said.

The FBLA national leadership conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois, from June 29 to July 2.



Photo courtesy of Lori Cooper

FBLA members pose for a picture at SLC.

Nifty new classes

JORDAN JENIK
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Next school year at Northwest, there will be nine new classes available for students to take. These include Advanced Robotics, Agri Business, Cybersecurity, Concepts of Electronics, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Human Development and Cognition and Sports and Entertainment Marketing. There is also Reality 101, although this is a class that is being brought back and offered once more.

These new classes introduce a variety of new skills to students, which some students that have signed up for the courses say they will be helpful to them in their careers.

"I want to be a teacher, and having knowledge about things that interest you as a teacher always helps because you can go back and say, 'I learned this in high school in this class,' and give knowledge about it," said sophomore Dylan Coates.

Even if the skill doesn't directly relate to their career of choice, the classes can be helpful in other ways too. Introduction to

Instrumentation will teach students about the instrumentation field and give them a hands on experience in hopes it will prepare them for a career.

Human Development and Cognition teaches students about how the human mind develops and how to nurture it.

"[Human Development and Cognition] doesn't necessarily pertain to my career choice, but if I choose to further my wrestling in college knowing more about my body will definitely be a game changer for me," said junior Chloe Mader.

As for technology classes, there's several to choose from this year. With new inventions being put out nearly every day, there's a lot of ways to apply creativity and learn new information. Advanced Robotics teaches students how to plan, build, and program their own robots. Concept of Electronics deals more with the electrical field and will provide students with a hands on experiences with electrical circuits. Cybersecurity will teach students how to protect themselves online and identify threats.

"I'm very interested in anything [to do

with] technology so I thought it'd a great way to learn new aspects of that," said freshman Ashten Schwarz.

Agri Business and Sports and Entertainment Marketing will teach students about business and marketing, as well as planning and sales.

Holocaust and Genocide Studies will teach students about the extensive the effects of World War Two had on a whole community of people. It is a reading extensive course, so be prepared to learn!

"Knowing that there's so much more that I can learn that usually makes me want to take the class," Coates said.

There's plenty of new classes offered in the 2022-23 school year. Concepts of Electronics and Introduction to Instrumentation are also offered as dual credit courses, allowing students to get college credits through CCC. If you are interested in any of these classes, it is not too late to sign up for them!

"In the past I don't remember getting these new opportunities so I hope to see more come up just for us kids to get more out of school," Mader said.

Registering for classes

EMMA SMITH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Every year, the school counselor's stop by the English classes to prepare students for the next year. In the case of freshmen through junior. After classes are picked, the process of actually registering students begins.

"It starts ... in December, the teachers can submit any new classes that they want to submit," said school counselor Lori Merritt.

"Once that gets approved, we will put that on the registration for students."

Once classes are added and student forms are turned in, the counselors start putting together schedules.

"The other counselor [Andrew Manhart] and I ... we go into the classrooms and we handout registration sheets, probably in

January, students fill those out," Merritt said.

"Once they filled those out ... we check them over. Then we go back, [and] we enter them into the computer."

Entering all the information into the system is a long and tedious process, but helps give the counselors a better understanding of how many students are interested in each class and how many sections will be needed per.

"Once we get the computer tallied," Merritt said. "You sit down with a team of people and decide how many sections of each class we need, who's going to teach the classes, plug it all into the computer, and the computer shoots out a schedule and gives us kind of a rough draft of what things will look like."

Overall, the process for registering students for classes is a simple, but a rather time-consuming task, it's not an overnight

project.

"It's a long process," Merritt said. "It requires a lot of different steps so it's not difficult, it just takes a long time."

Remember, when the counselors hand out the registration forms, try and get it back to them as soon as possible so they can begin the process involved in making sure students can take the classes they want.



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Finding hope beyond a home: How the Dramse siblings' adoption provided them with more than just a family

EMELIA RICHLING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

The three Dramse siblings, along with their younger sister who is not yet in high school, held the last name Fritzell until their adoption on March 29. Following the split of their parents when the children were younger, they moved between foster homes, always searching for their forever.

"It was hard, not knowing would happen," said senior Katelynn.

From Hastings to Scottsbluff, the siblings experienced traveling through various life moments, but they had to do it separately. With sophomore Courtney living in a foster home in Grand Island with the Dramse family, she had found a group of people who cared about her, but she wanted her other siblings to share in the experience.

"I wanted my siblings to be with me," Courtney explained. "And I had hope that it would happen for us."

Even after the students found a home they wished to live in at the Dramse residence, the transition to becoming adopted was not an easy one. As their biological parents fought the court system about rights to the children, the four siblings banded together, staying strong throughout the process that lasted several years.

"The adoption process depends," Courtney said. "Some are longer than others, and some parents give their rights to the children over right away. That did not happen in our situation."

In late March, the long journey came to an end when the Fritzell siblings finally were able to change their last names, a joyous success for the group when the adoption was finalized in the courtroom.

The new roof over their heads has been a source of comfort but also an exciting and chaotic environment where the students are allowed to thrive.

"They have a couple other biological and adopted kids," said freshman Konner.

The transition to living with their new parents has come with a lot of differences.

"We weren't used to the parenting," Courtney said. "We were used to doing our own thing and taking care of each other."

As the students look forward to forever with their new family, they are participating in a variety of sports and activities. Courtney is in dance, Katelynn in volleyball and track and Konner in wrestling, football and track.

While the siblings prepare for life together with the support of their new parents and siblings, they are carrying the spirit of hope and celebration because they know there is a community of people who are helping to rewrite the siblings' story.

"Our parents are really supportive of us," Courtney said. "They take care of us and make us feel like we're never going to get hurt again."

The Dramse family did not just get bigger this past March. It became the perfect size.



TOP: After receiving the verdict concerning their adoption on March 29, the siblings lean in for a group hug with their new family in the county courtroom.

BOTTOM: From the third on the left to the right, sophomore Courtney, senior Katelynn and freshman Konner stand with their adopted parents and the judge presiding over their adoption case.



TOP: The Dramse family, including both the biological and adopted siblings, poses during a family vacation.

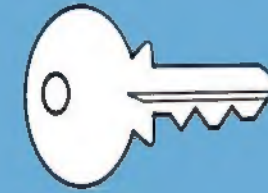
BOTTOM: Sophomore Courtney (left) poses with her sister Shylee following a dance recital at Just for Kix.



Photos courtesy of the Dramse family

A timeline to unlocking forever

2009 - Following the separation of their parents, the four siblings spent the school years with their mother and summers with their father.



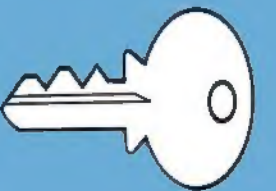
June 3, 2014 - Their father got full custody of the children, so they move full-time to Bayard, NE.

July 29, 2019 - The father is sent to jail, leaving the siblings with their step mother.

November 2019 - The siblings moved to Kearney.

February 10, 2020 - The Dramse family welcomed the four siblings with open arms to their house in Grand Island.

March 29, 2022 - After the lengthy and complicated two-year process, the siblings were finally adopted, discovering a key that would unlock their forever family.



JAIYA BRADEN
BUSINESS MANAGER

Summer vacay is on the way

Accompanying the end of the school year comes excitement for the three months of freedom - summer break. A multitude of conversations begin, consisting of making plans for hanging out with friends and vacations. Students involved in the workforce may begin dreading the long hours but anticipating the significant rise in pay. Seniors start setting their sights on the unknown of college and beginning to work on careers.

Jobs

The long days of summer bring about a surplus of free time many students fill with summer jobs - everything from lifeguarding to mowing lawns.

Most high school students end up in fast food and retail, working hours that aren't the best. Despite the issues, with work comes money, and with money comes being able to function in society.

"I need to pay for my college," said junior Talia Bandt.

However, there are things to be considered when applying for work, such as how well an employer will work with schedules and the type of work environment.

"There's just a lot of safety concerns," said senior Zachary Bicknase, who works at Hy-Vee and seasonally at Fonner Park. "But I don't want to go through a whole interviewing process again because I hated that."

Whether already working or not, there are plenty of job opportunities for students and a surplus of time in the summer to fill.

CCC Classes

To help limit college debt, students are able to take Advanced Placement classes, courses through local community colleges, online courses, etc. The classes that Grand Island Central Community College (CCC) offer are fairly inexpensive when compared to those of four-year colleges.

An average college student takes about 15 credit hours per semester. The average credit hour at a public university is \$309, and at CCC it is \$107.

It is uncommon for students take summer CCC classes. Those who do take everything from speech and English, which are applicable to most majors, to welding and psychology, which are more major specific.

"For juniors and sophomores, it should be a priority that they take them (CCC classes)," Bicknase said.

For students who have an idea of their college future and want to cut down on the costs, there are CCC classes.

Vacation

As summer is the longest break in a student's year, it is the optimal time to take vacations. Weekend camping trips and cruises are all a part of the summer vacation scene.

According to a poll concerning summer plans, four out of the 43 planning to vacation are going to Florida, making it the most popular destination. Texas, Colorado and Arizona follow in second with two students apiece. A few people are going to more uncommon places, such as Italy and Alaska.

Some of the more prominent memories from childhood can often be vacations because of their novelty.

"A few years ago we went there [Wisconsin], and our Airbnb got canceled, so we tried to find a hotel really fast," said sophomore Alex Linden. "So, pretty cool experience."

Vacations enable people to see the world without the commitment of living there. In every place, there are things that can be learned and experienced.

Closing

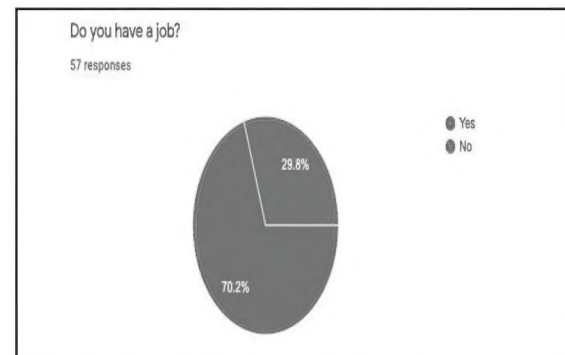
Some students anticipate summer as soon as winter break ends. Both sick of the cold and the school days that seemingly drag for an eternity, students find the warmth of summer and the amount of free time appealing.

"I'm excited to hang out with all my friends and have a bunch of free time," Bandt said.

Summer brings about things such as swimming, camping, biking, hiking and a vast array of other activities that aren't readily available in the winter months. But some people don't find the summer to be something to look forward to.

"I don't really like the summer," Bicknase said. "It's just too hot, and you don't really get to see friends anymore."

Nevertheless, sunglasses weather is on its way.



This is from a poll sent to 647 students and 57 responded. It concerned the summer plans of students including jobs, CCC classes and vacations. The picture shows the difference between those with jobs and those without jobs. 70.2% having jobs and 29.8% not.



Photo courtesy Lane Report



Want To Be A Lifeguard?

The City of Grand Island is accepting applications for summer lifeguards!

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- Must be at least 16 years of age.

For more information & to apply visit www.grand-island.com/lifeguard.

A final farewell: Patrick Schiley

JAIYA BRADEN
BUSINESS MANAGER

As the school year draws to an end and summer closes in, there is one more teacher who will not be found in the halls at the beginning of August. Patrick Schiley is one of the six teachers leaving Northwest. Here's a few things to help see him off.

How long have you been at Northwest?
"One year."

What subjects have you taught?
"I teach both mechanical drafting with Auto-CAD [drafting software] and Inventor Software. I teach architectural drafting using a software program called Revit. And consumer auto, construction systems, carpentry."

Activities overseen/sports coached?
"I'm the sponsor for SkillsUSA."

How has your NW experience been?
"It's been really good."

Favorite memory?
"No, no favorite memories. They're all good."

Gaps in Grading

CASEY PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

When high school is thought of, how many struggles come to mind? One? Ten? A hundred? According to emersonhospital.org, 62% of high school students report levels of high stress. Stress is only one of the many problems students face. There are tons of problems many can think of off the top of their head, but today the focus will be on the Northwest grading system. The grading system at NW is on a seven point scale, while most other public schools are on a 10- point grading scale.

"Compared to my last school, I would say that the NW grading system is a whole lot more difficult. We were on the 10 point scale grading system, which was a lot more lenient than the 7 point because it gave you more room to work with your grades," sophomore Andrew Burnham said.

The three points between the seven-point grading scale and the 10 point system make the 10 system a lot harder. However, on the other side of the spectrum, some report

What are your plans for after you leave? Going back to West Omaha. I'm going back to teach at Elkhorn, [which is] where I taught before I came here. We left Elkhorn to move back to Grand Island to be closer to family and wanted to raise our kids here. My wife wanted to be back at her old job with Gretna Public Schools. A happy wife makes a happy life."

What will you miss about NW?
"I'll miss that it was so close to my house. Now I have a little bit of a drive. It's all been good."

What advice do you have?
"Life is short, don't blink. Work hard but remember to stop and enjoy life."

that the current grading scale is fairly easy.

"I think it [the NW grading system] would actually make it [succeeding] easier because then the expectations are higher. Then, you just expect yourself to do more than others," sophomore Whitney Wissing said.

In high school, motivation is key. Without the drive to complete necessary tasks, high school will be nearly impossible. How motivating is the NW grading system, if it's a motivating factor at all?

"Probably because then you have to try harder," said Wissing.

Several hundreds of students all over the world struggle with motivation, as well as adults. With that being said every aspect of school should try to be as motivating for students as possible.

"For some, yeah, for some they want to try and get that good grade but some don't because they think it's too much," freshman Cali Gutierrez said.

Even with motivation being a positive thing about NW grading system, there are still tons of other positives and negatives hidden within the system.

June Issue
FEATURE 09



Photo courtesy Patrick Schiley

Patrick Schiley takes a picture with his wife and three children.

A negative that was spotted was "[It] could stress some people out when there's no need for it," said Gutierrez

However, there are also positives that can be said about the Northwest grading system.

"We try harder, and we expect more out of ourselves," said Wissing.

High school provides students with enough obstacles to last a lifetime, but the grading system particularly provides people in extracurricular activities with more of a challenge, or does it?

"I don't think it really does because it's all based on grades" Burnham said "I think it would help for the people that need it, but personally, no".

All in all, the grading system has a lot of positives and negatives to it, but does it make it easier or harder to succeed?

"For people who it's hard for, I feel like it's because they're not trying or they just have no time to but for people who it's easy for, they're just trying".

AUDRIANNA WISEMAN
EVENT COORDINATOR

The Northwest trapshooting team knows how to shoot down its competition, but not every student knows what it really is, or the merit required to succeed in it.

"Trapshooting is a sport where you [use] a shotgun to shoot a roughly five-inch clay target thrown from a machine that oscillates left and right," said coach Derek Karre. "We vary our yardages from shooting from 16 yards all the way back to 27."

There is a lot more to the sport, though.

"There [are] two categories for ages," said junior Wyatt Gildersleeve. "High school is considered seniors, and then we have juniors, which is eighth through fifth grade."

Trap is not known for being a physically intense or demanding sport, but that

Swinging all the way to state

MEGHAN PENNELL
STAFF WRITER

Each year, Islander baseball begins their training early, working hard to start the season off swinging. Northwest co-ops with Grand Island Senior High to provide better opportunities for players, a practice that has paid off for both schools.

"At this point, you know everybody from GISH if you've played before," said freshman Owen Payne. "We've all played on travel teams with each other before, too, so it doesn't affect that much."

Despite what one may assume, the boys unite under one common goal. Together the two schools bring their best to the diamond each time they play.

"Northwest players bring a hard-nosed mentality and compete hard every single day," said head coach Kirby Wells. "I love coaching kids from each school and

Trap team tears through targets

does not take away from its value.

"It still challenges you and pushes you as a competitor," said senior Olivia Sargent. "Just like any other sport, you grow and learn so many things that are more than just about the sport itself."

Members of trapshooting cite plenty of reasons to enjoy it other than the ones mentioned above.

"I think it's fun, especially for people who go to Northwest," Gildersleeve said. "A lot of people are [outdoorsy] people and they like to hunt and just [do] outdoor activities in general and stuff with guns."

The coach has a slightly different reason for liking the sport.

"Watching the kids start when they're young and don't really know what they're doing and watching them progress through, get real good and achieve their goals, it's pretty rewarding," Karre said.

Another motivator for students to join and remain part of trapshooting is the

developing relationships that last a lifetime."

Every day after school, the team practices at either Ashley or Ryder park, showing their dedication to the sport and to one another as well.

Sophomore Camden Jensen's favorite part of practice is hitting. Jensen has been playing in the outfield since elementary school and playing in high school has only allowed him to improve his skill.

"I like it," Jensen said. "I wouldn't want to play any other position."

In baseball, most players stick to their positions throughout each game. Although they can adjust depending on the situation, most of these players have put countless hours into the specific skills needed to succeed in each position.

Although Freshman Owen Payne has been playing baseball for his entire life, this has been his first year getting to play on a

competitions.

"A few personal accomplishments I am most proud of [are] winning conference my junior year, winning high overall female shooter at USAYESS (United States of America Youth Education in Shooting Sports) nationals and winning scholarship checks over the years," Sargent said.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Ramos

Junior Cesar Ramos, sophomore Levi Bruns and senior Olivia Sargent pose with trapshooting awards.

high school team.

"It has its ups and downs just like anything, but I like where I am," Payne said.

After losing one district game and winning the other, the team finished their season off against Columbus with games to be rescheduled. On May 6 the team won against Bryan Omaha, winning the conference tournament.

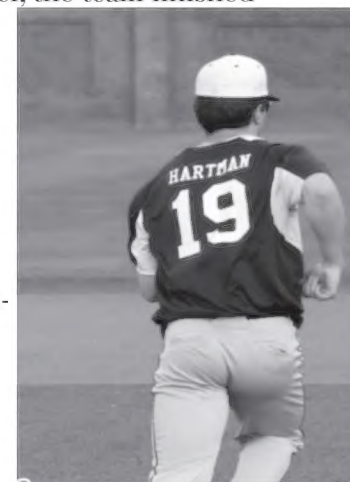


Photo courtesy of Kirby Wells

Senior Sam Hartman runs back towards the team after a completed play.

11 June Issue FEATURE

AUDRIANNA WISEMAN
EVENT COORDINATOR

From March 18 to May 22, the online Scholastic Art and Writing Competition received entries from several schools across the US, one of those being Northwest, an active participant for the last decade. Many students entered the competition, but one stood out above the rest.

Sophomore Ella Lorenz, under the guidance of art teacher Beau Studley, won a gold key at the state-level event.

"All gold keys at the state level then go on to nationals," Studley said.

The piece entered was a sculpture made for an art class assignment.

"It was a sculpture of a hedgehog that I made out of paper and styrofoam," Lorenz said. "I kind of just came up with it on the spot because I love hedgehogs, and they're my favorite animals."

Lorenz received the national results on a special day.

"I got an email telling me to [go to] the

Ella Lorenz comes up gold

website on my birthday, actually," Lorenz said.

Lorenz celebrated the special occasion with family and later with friends when she shared the news.

"She told me [about her award], and she was very excited about it," said sophomore Alyx Beck, Lorenz's friend and fellow artist of two years. "We were all sitting there, and she was like, 'I just got a national gold key!' and we were all super excited for her."

According to Lorenz's teacher and friends, it was no mystery why she won the award.

"I definitely think Ella is a great artist, very much so superior to my own," Beck said. "I know that she's really good at her sculptures. She always thinks outside of the box and makes sure it's something unique and something true to herself."

Studley seems to agree with this sentiment, citing her performance in class.

"Ella's a great student," Studley said. "She comes in and she's always working, using time wisely, always thinking outside the box, challenging herself. She's great to have in class."

Lorenz has a background in art and plans to keep it in her future.

"I've pretty much been doing art my whole life," Lorenz said. "I want to continue pursuing art and [major in it] in college and then go on into interior designing or something along those lines."

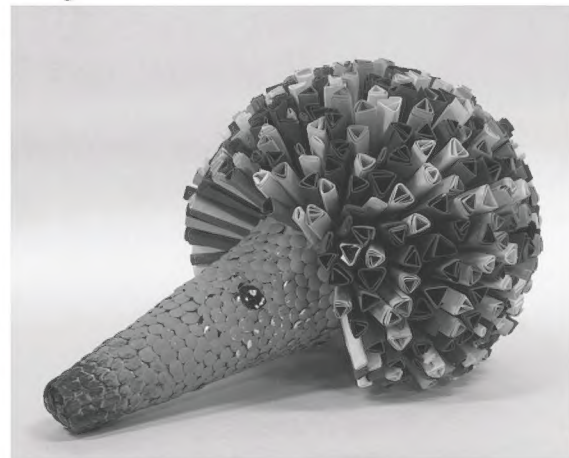


Photo Courtesy of Beau Studley

Lorenz made her hedgehog sculpture mostly out of paper and styrofoam.

Worst Roommate Ever review

CASEY PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

There are several popular murder movies and mini series on the topic of true crime. However, this mini-series has already caught a lot of attention and is worth watching. "Worst Roommate Ever" aired on Netflix in Mar., and it's the perfect mini-series for a weekend binge. "Worst Roommate Ever" is one season long, with five episodes, each about 45 minutes, and once you start watching it, there's no stopping. Not only is "Worst Roommate Ever" a documentary, but it's also a thriller, and it is addicting and impossible to look away from. The show uses a well-balanced combination of real footage and animated drawings to tell horrific stories strictly about roommates who have not been such kind living partners, and uses the victims to tell the story.

This mini-series tells the gruesome stories of four different people who no one would want to be stuck with as roommates. Each person gets

their own episode, except for the last person on episode four, who gets the last two episodes, since their story is a bit longer. The show interviews the victims who explain their situations and what their roommate has done to them. I love thrillers and murder documentaries shows. They are my absolute favorite. I can never find a ton of good true crime entertainment. I have never seen anything quite like "Worst Roommate Ever." There are true crime documentaries about some of the most popular killers, such as Ted Bundy, who used his good looks to his advantage to kill young girls; Jeffrey Dahmer, who had an obsession with killing for control; and Ed Gein who had a lampshade made of human skin. However, I have never viewed a form of true crime entertainment that discusses violent roommates.

From finding seven bodies in a seemingly normal yard, to learning about a violent serial squatter who needs control, the show is superb from start to finish. Along with the emotional roller coasters these episodes bring, there are

also learning opportunities. You get educated about the process of working as a detective or someone in law-force, and you learn a bit more about how killers and violent people may tend to act.

"Worst Roommate Ever" is one of the best true crime mini-series out there. The show is a cure for boredom and a killer time passer.



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